

## CLAIM SHEET

87. A system comprising:

a transmitter that is configured to transmit data on a selected one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel; and

a receiver that is configured to receive, on a selected one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel; and

a receiver that is configured to receive, on a selected one of the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel, the data transmitted by said transmitter,

wherein the selection between the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel is made such that:

(a) when the second satellite communication channel is selected and signal strength is below a predetermined value, then the first satellite communication channel is selected; and

(b) when the first satellite communication channel is selected and (i) signal strength is above a predetermined value and (ii) the second satellite communication channel has a load factor lower than that of the first satellite communication channel, then the second satellite communication channel is selected,

wherein said receiver effects the selection,  
wherein said receiver comprises a signal strength detector that detects the signal strength, and  
wherein the signal strength is determined in accordance with an energy-per-bit to noise ratio.

129. A method comprising:

selecting one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel for transmitting data from a transmitter to a receiver, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel,

wherein the selection between the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel is made such that:

(a) when the second satellite communication channel is selected and signal strength is below a predetermined value, then the first satellite communication channel is selected; and

(b) when the first satellite communication channel is selected and (i) signal strength is above a predetermined value and (ii) the second satellite communication channel has a load factor lower than that of the first satellite communication channel, then the second satellite communication channel is selected,

wherein the receiver effects the selection,  
wherein the receiver comprises a signal strength detector that detects the signal strength,

wherein the signal strength is determined in accordance with an energy-per-bit to noise ratio,

wherein the receiver transmits to the transmitter an indication as to which of the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel has been selected,

wherein the transmitter comprises a load factor determination unit that is configured to determine the load factor of the first satellite communication channel and the load factor of the second satellite communication channel, and

wherein the transmitter transmits the load factor of the first satellite communication channel and the load factor of the second satellite communication channel, as determined by said load factor determination unit, to the receiver.

133. A system comprising:

a transmitter that is configured to transmit data on a selected one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel; and

a receiver that is configured to receive, on a selected one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel; and

a receiver that is configured to receive, on a selected one of the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel, the data transmitted by said transmitter,

wherein the selection between the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel is made such that:

(a) when the second satellite communication channel is selected and signal strength is below a predetermined value, then the first satellite communication channel is selected; and

(b) when the first satellite communication channel is selected and (i) signal strength is above a predetermined value and (ii) the second satellite communication channel has a load factor lower than that of the first satellite communication channel, then the second satellite communication channel is selected,

wherein said receiver comprises a signal strength detector that detects the signal strength, and

wherein the signal strength is determined in accordance with an energy-per-bit to noise ratio.

134. A method comprising:

selecting one of a first satellite communication channel and a second satellite communication channel for transmitting data from a transmitter to a receiver, the first satellite communication channel having a bit rate lower than that of the second satellite communication channel,

wherein the selection between the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel is made such that:

(a) when the second satellite communication channel is selected and signal strength is below a predetermined value, then the first satellite communication channel is selected; and

(b) when the first satellite communication channel is selected and (i) signal strength is above a predetermined value and (ii) the second satellite communication channel has a load factor lower than that of the first satellite communication channel, then the second satellite communication channel is selected,

wherein the receiver comprises a signal strength detector that detects the signal strength,

wherein the signal strength is determined in accordance with an energy-per-bit to noise ratio,

wherein the receiver transmits to the transmitter an indication as to which of the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel has been selected,

wherein the transmitter comprises a load factor determination unit that is configured to determine the load factor of the first satellite communication channel and the load factor of the second satellite communication channel,

wherein the transmitter transmits the load factor of the first satellite communication channel and the load factor of the second satellite communication channel, as determined by said load factor determination unit, to the receiver.

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